

BLOFIELD AND FLEGG RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICERS' OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1942

Public Health Department,
Council Office,
ACRE.

September, 1943.

To the Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Rural District Council of Blofield and Flegg.

We beg to present our Annual Report in accordance with the requirements of Circular 2067 as issued by the Ministry of Health.

The geographical position of the District in normal times places it as a corridor between two large towns through which a great movement of population takes place, more especially during the summer months when people are attracted to the Coastal Area, the Rivers and Broads.

During the present emergency certain restrictions have reduced this movement to a minimum, although use has been made of the District as a 'Cushion Area' for the reception of a large number of persons needing accommodation.

The District remains chiefly agricultural in character.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| Area (acres) | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 74,774 |
| Population (Census 1931) | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 24,566 |
| Population (Estimated 1942) | ... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 28,990 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (1942) | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 7,736 |
| Number of Families or separate Occupiers |  | .... | .... | .... | .... | 7,798 |
| Ratesable Value | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | £117,101 |
| Produce of Id. Rate | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | £462 |


EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|-----|-------|-----|---------|-----|
| BIRTHS: (Legitimate) | - Total: | 543 | Males | 295 | Females | 248 |
| (Illegitimate) | " | 55 | Males | 26 | Females | 21 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Total | 578 | Males | 309 | Females | 269 |

BIRTH RATE: - 19.95

SMALL BIRTHS:

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------|----|-------|----|---------|---|
| (Legitimate) | - Total: | 17 | Males | 10 | Females | 7 |
| (Illegitimate) | - " | 1 | Males | 1 | Females | 0 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Total | 18 | Males | 11 | Females | 7 |



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DEATHS: Total: 384 Males - 195 Females - 189

DEATH RATE: 13.24

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of Child-Birth:-

From Sepsis - 0 From other Sources - 0

Deaths of Infant under 1 year of age per 1,000 Births:-

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| (Legitimate) Total: | 23 | Males - | 16 | Females - | 7 |
| (Illegitimate) " | 2 | Males - | 2 | Females - | 0 |
| | <u>25</u> | Males | <u>18</u> | Females | <u>7</u> |

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Males - 0 Females - 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - Males 1 Females 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) Males 0 Females 0

The Births in 1942 were 309 Males and 269 Females, a total of 578 against 215 Males and 210 Females, a total of 425 for the year 1941 making an increase 153 Births.

The Birth-rate in 1942 was 19.93 as against an average of 14.65 in the year 1941. The Birth-rate for England and Wales is 15.8

The deaths during the year were more in number and the death-rate 13.24 compares with 10.54 for the year 1941.

There were 9 deaths from Tuberculosis, no deaths from Diphtheria, 98 deaths from Heart Disease and 46 from Cancer.

The Infantile Mortality Rate still remains comparatively low, it stands at 43.2 deaths of children under 1 year per 1,000 Births.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

Medical Officers of Health (part time)

W. ROYDEN, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

J. D. McKELVIE M.D.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

LOUIS F. BECKWITH, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.F.A.S.
(Eng)

Sanitary Inspectors.

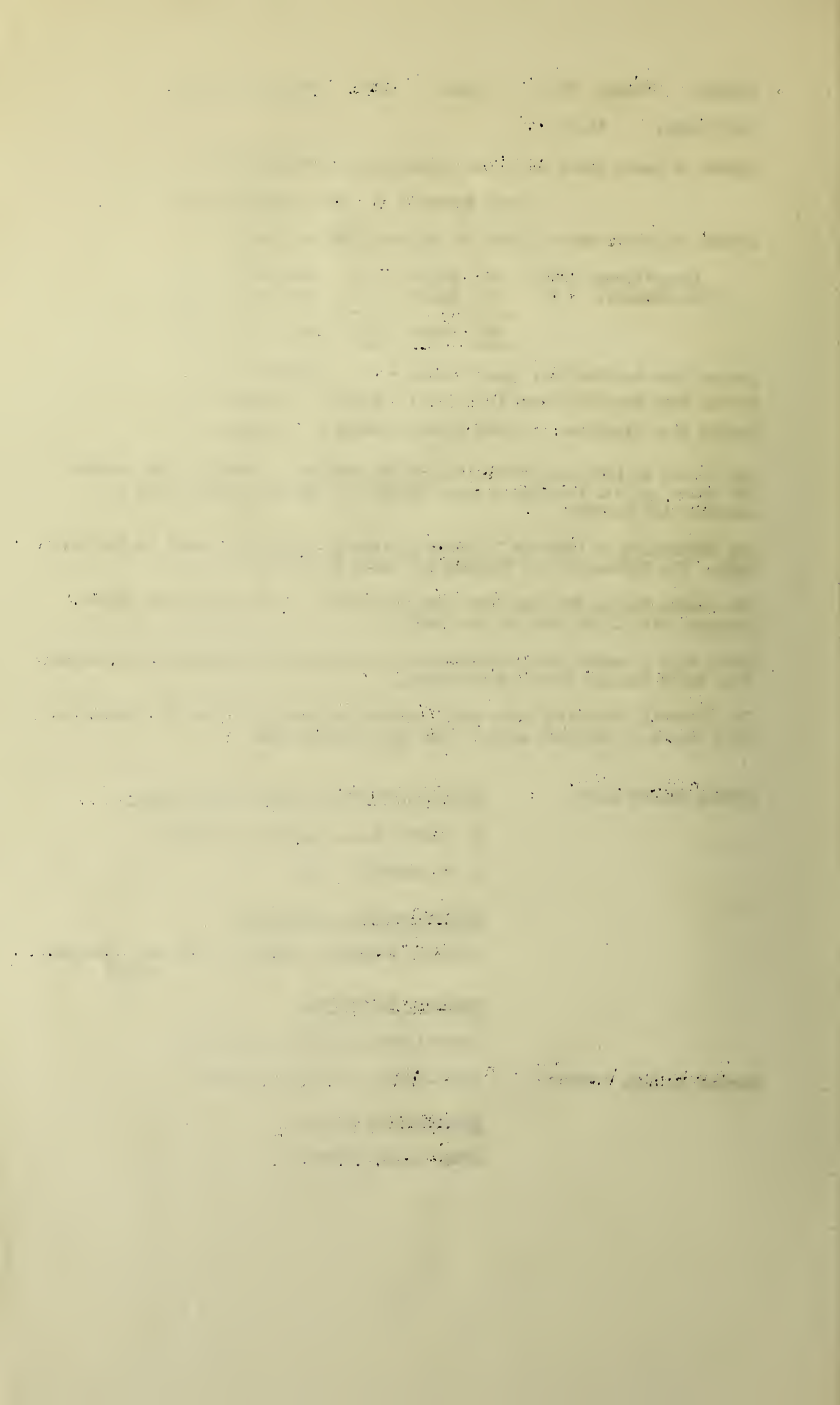
ARTHUR ARMES, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Serving in H.M. Forces -

H.G.T. BOLTON, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Departmental Clerk.

Miss. R.A.M. STONE.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES: Investigation into several suspicious private water supplies has been made and action taken to provide alternative supplies of a wholesome character where pollution was found.

The position of main supplies in various Parishes remains as reported in the Annual Report for the year 1939, a small number of additional connections to private properties were made during the year under review.

The doubtful character of a number of additional private supplies in various parts of the District must be dealt with at the appropriate time. The provision of a main supply in some areas would be the most practical method.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE: No extension of drainage facilities have been carried out, special attention has been given to both private and public systems to prevent nuisances arising. The Council's Sewerage Schemes in East Caister and Thorpe St. Andrew have both been working satisfactorily throughout the year.

The Council's Cesspool Emptying Plant was fully employed dealing with hundreds of cesspools throughout the District. There is no doubt this Plant has rendered a valuable public health service and ranks with the more important cleansing schemes operated by the Council.

Consideration must be given at the earliest possible opportunity to the extension of present drainage areas and to the provision of fresh drainage areas in parts of the District where the need is apparent.

Certain drainage extensions that were contemplated previous to the outbreak of War should receive the Council's attention as soon as facilities are available for them to be carried out. At present the particular areas concerned are served by cesspool drainage, causing some anxiety to your public health officers. It has been stressed in previous Reports the potential danger to public health arising from the existence of many hundreds of cesspools within restricted areas.

The question of adequate drainage in any future planning is one that must receive the serious consideration of the Council.

SCAVENGING: The operating of the various scavenging schemes throughout the District has been seriously affected by calling up of essential men. Some of the Schemes have been disorganised through shortage of suitable labour, it is hoped the public cleansing staffs will not be further depleted.

The Council considered the unsatisfactory position of refuse and night soil disposal at Acle and decided that it was essential to operate a public cleansing scheme in this parish; efforts are being made to carry this into effect.

There are a number of other Parishes similarly situated that should be considered with a view to providing public cleansing facilities.

It is possible the inclusion of some of these Parishes in existing Schemes might prove more economical and efficient.

GENERAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

In spite of the movement of the population of the District the standard of public health is being maintained. The efforts of the public health staff no doubt contributed to this position in a large measure.

We feel we must here again mention the devotion to duties and untiring efforts of Mr. Beckwith, the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his capable staff. In spite of the many additional duties, the safeguarding of the health of the public has always received their prior attention at all times.

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MILK AND DAIRIES: In view of the great food value of milk, special attention has been given to Milk Producers' premises and methods of production.

Good work has been done in improving premises and methods which has resulted in a cleaner and more wholesome milk being supplied to consumers.

Regular visits have been made to these premises and samples of milk collected for examination for testing its condition of cleanliness and for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

A great deal of good has ensued by the education of those most intimately connected with milk production.

It is satisfactory to note the improvements to premises that have been carried out.

HOUSING: The cessation of activities in the erection of working class dwellings and repairing and improvement of existing dwellings has created a serious position regarding proper accommodation.

A large number of families are living under inadequate and unsatisfactory conditions. The condition of many houses is a potential danger to public health, it will need a great deal of attention from the Council when the time arrives for considering provisions for improving the housing standards in the District.

It will be found that clearance of a number of areas would add to general improvements in housing conditions.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION: Most satisfactory progress with immunising children up to the age of 15 years under the Council's Scheme has taken place. The number of children who have received treatment shows a marked increase on the previous year.

Good results have been obtained through Schools and other Clinics.

At the end of the year 21.4 per cent of the children below 5 years of age and 95.48 per cent between 5 and 15 years had received treatment.

Efforts are being continued towards the goal of 100 per cent immunisation of children of these ages. In addition, many adults have taken advantage of the treatment.

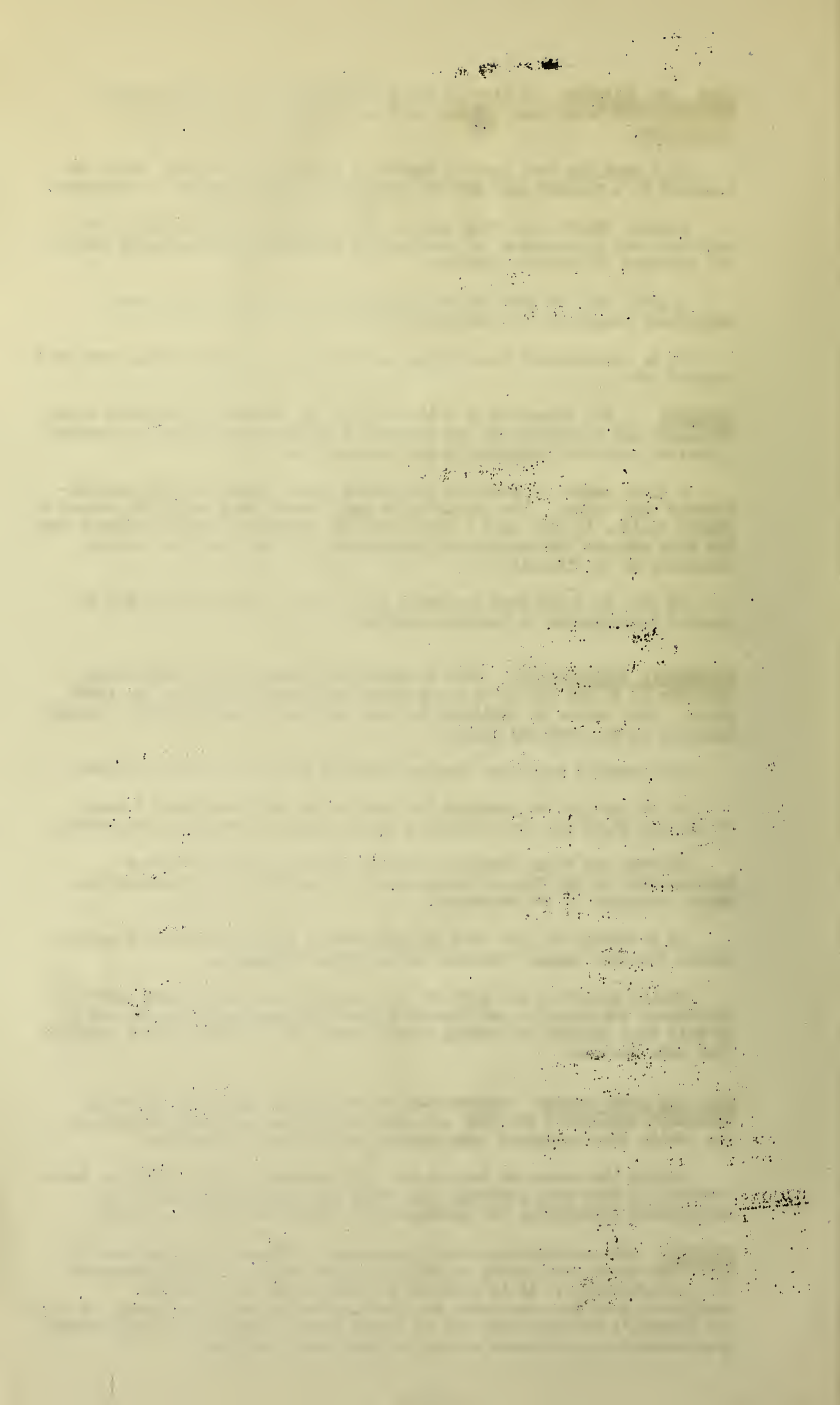
It is worthy of note that the one case of Diphtheria which occurred during the year amongst children had not been immunised.

Public attention has been drawn to this Scheme, by Posters exhibited throughout the District and through medical and nursing channels, and it is said that parents are taking more interest in protecting their children from this Disease.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS: Supervision of Food Depots and Shops has been continued throughout the year and every effort has been made to protect the public from consuming contaminated and polluted foodstuffs.

During the course of inspections all foodstuffs found unfit for human consumption have been condemned and where not destroyed handed to the appropriate authorities for concentration into animal feeding stuffs.

SCABIES: This condition is still prevalent. Efforts are being made to deal with every case coming to notice, by the supply of Benzyl Benzoate and disinfection; it is doubtful if Scabies can be completely eradicated from the area until its notification is made compulsory, as it is the Council's Officers have now to depend upon the goodwill of the medical profession to report cases arising within their practice.



GENERAL: In consequence of the present emergency many additional duties have arisen, but in spite of these abnormal times the health of the District can be considered satisfactory.

Your Public Health Officers have been able to give assistance to the Military Authorities on various sanitary matters.

We are, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

W. RIGBY, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

J. D. MCKEY, M.D.

Medical Officers of Health.

